MONTEREY NEWS

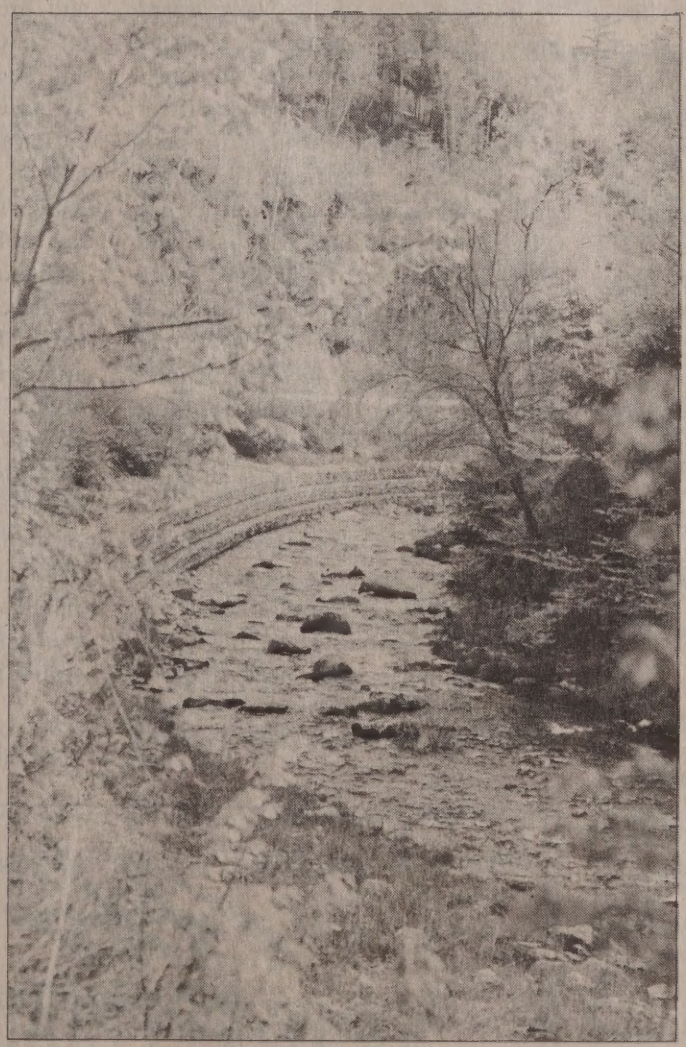
June 2000
VOLUME XXX · Number 6

The Town

Town Elections: On Saturday, May 6, 260 voters came to the Monterey Firehouse to elect officers to twelve town government positions. Six of the elected positions were uncontested—for the Board of Appeals, Board of Assessors, Cemetery Committee, Moderator, Park Commission, and Select Board. All incumbents were reelected. The election results are as follows:

Board of Appeals:
Cynthia Weber (5 years)
Board of Assessors:
Gary Shaw (3 years)
Finance Committee:
Dan Moriarty (3 years)
Cemetery Committee:
Linda Thorpe (3 years)
Library Trustees:
Donna Trumbull (3 yrs)
Kathleen Bracken (3 yrs)
Moderator:
Mark Makuc (1 year)
Parks Commission:
Ron McMahon (3 years)
Planning Board:
Gerry Shapiro (3 years)
Select Board:
Muriel Lazzarini (3 years)
Town Clerk:
Barbara Swann (3 years)
Tree Warden:
Roger Tryon (1 year)

Town Government Appointments: Peter Brown has been unanimously voted by the Select Board to be the new Select Board chair until the next town election. The Select Board also voted unanimously that Peter Brown, Fred Chapman, and Muriel Lazzarini continue to serve as Monterey's Board of Health until the next town elections. In a final appointment, the Select Board unanimously voted that Robert L. Gennari of Housatonic be appointed as the Alternate Plumbing Inspector for a term running through June 30, 2001.



MaryKate Jordan

The Konkapot from River Road

Annual Town Meeting Results: Eighty-seven Monterey residents gathered at the Monterey Firehouse on Saturday, May 6, for Monterey's Annual Town Meeting. This was one of the shortest Town Meetings on record, lasting only one hour and sixteen minutes. The budget for the next fiscal year, beginning July 1, was passed nearly unchanged, with the only adjustments being to add $600 to the election expenses to cover three elections in the coming year, and to add $600 for the school committee. The total budget for fiscal year 2001 comes to $2,019,600, which is approximately a four percent increase over this year's budget.

In other articles, voters approved the purchase of a medical/rescue vehicle and self-contained breathing apparatus for the Fire Department and a new police cruiser for the Police Department. A transfer of $8,000 from free cash was approved to repair the General Knox Museum wing of the Monterey Library; also $100,000 will be put into the Stabilization Fund, and an "I Love Monterey Day" Revolving Fund will be established. The Town also accepted a transfer of approximately 1.1 acres of land from Gould Farm, in return for a permanent easement over the northeast corner of the transfer station.

The Select Board was authorized to enter into an agreement with other South County towns to cooperate in collecting and properly disposing of hazardous waste, and the Conservation Commission was expanded to include seven, rather than five, members. Seven members have sometimes worked on the Conservation Commission in the past, and the vote makes this change official.

For a complete record of the Town Meeting, please contact the Town Clerk, Barbara Swann, or the town offices.

New Police Cruiser: Following the town vote on May 6, $24,000 will be transferred from free cash to purchase a new police cruiser for the Police Department. Monterey has had its present police cruiser for three years, and according to Police Chief Gareth Backhaus, it will soon be worn out for emergency use. Keeping the present cruiser would put the Town at risk of needing to pay expensive repair bills. The present cruiser will be traded in to help defray the costs of a new vehicle. The Police Department is hoping to have the new cruiser on the road soon after July 1.

Gould Farm transfers property to Monterey: In accordance with the Town Meeting, Monterey will accept 1.1 acres of land from Gould Farm, and will grant the Farm an easement over the northeast corner of the transfer station. This change is a result of a survey which showed that the old landfill to the north and east of the present transfer station had crossed the boundary onto Gould Farm property.

Gould Farm has for many years used the gravel drive that crosses the town property adjacent to the 1.1 acres for access to their property. This property transfer ensures that the Farm will maintain the right to cross the town land in the future.

New Officer to Join Police Force: On Monday, May 15, the Select Board appointed Marty Mayberry as a new part-time police officer in Monterey. Mayberry is trained as a police officer and is also currently working as a part-time officer in Sheffield. He comes with recommendations from Police Chief Gareth Backhaus. Mayberry will bring the number of part-time police officers in Monterey to six. Many of these officers work on the weekends, and having a larger force of officers makes coverage of the weekends more complete. The Community Policing Grant helps to cover the salaries of these officers.

One of the goals of the Police Department is to use its larger numbers to enforce speed limits through Monterey. Police Chief Backhaus is urging voluntary compliance with speed limits to ensure a safe summer in Monterey. However, the Community Policing Grant has also been used to purchase a hand-held radar to help with this goal.

Barn Raising at Gould Farm: The Timber Framers' Guild will be joining the Gould Farm Community to build a food-processing barn in July. There will be a barn-raising festival during "I Love Monterey Days" on July 29. Anyone interested in joining the celebration by bringing a demonstration, hosting a booth, providing entertainment, or lending a hand, please contact Carly or Amy at 528-1804

Cooperation Between Police Departments Helps Solve Break-Ins: Southern Berkshire County has recently experienced a rash of thefts and break-ins. The towns of Monterey, Great Barrington, Egremont, and Sheffield have all been affected by these thefts. Monterey has recently experienced two break-ins, in the areas of Sandisfield Road and Main Road. The widespread occurrence of the thefts has led the Police Departments of the four towns to cooperate in investigating the crimes. Police Chief Backhaus has expressed his appreciation for this cooperation, which has helped in comparing similarities in the crimes and building a case that many of the thefts have been related. A suspect has confessed to many of the thefts, although the case is still under investigation. Thanks to the ongoing efforts of the four police departments, much of the stolen property has been recovered.

—Melissa Hochstetler

Peter S. Vallianos
Attorney at Law
528-0055

General practice includes real estate purchases, sales, family transfers and transfers in trust, zoning, land use matters, conservation restrictions, landlord-tenant; wills, probate; commercial law.

***

I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.

The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.

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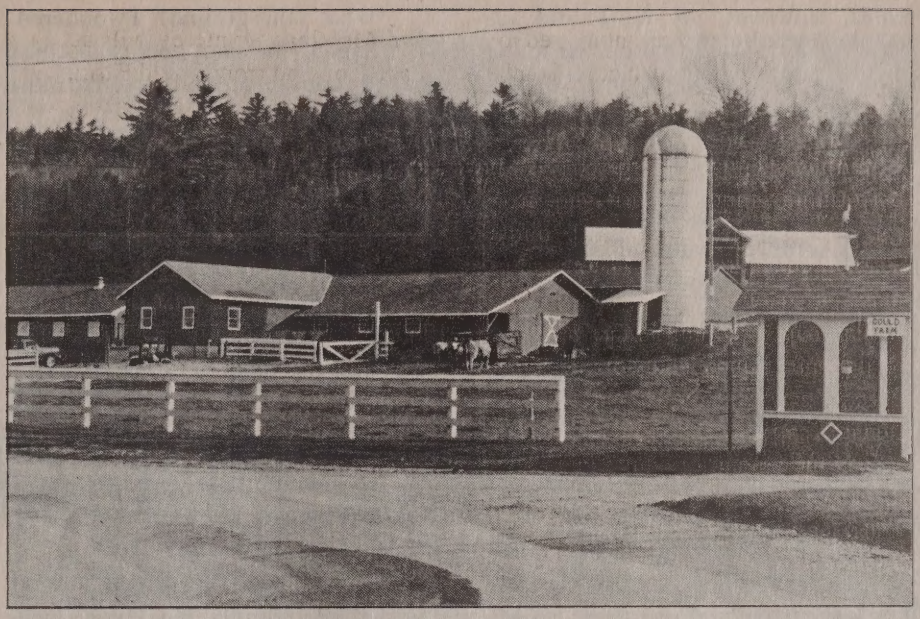
The Little Dig

On a cold, snowy morning in late April, I was driven down to the Gould Farm barns to interview the man responsible for excavating the foundation for our new Harvest & Trades Center barn. Leigh Tryon, whom you might call the CEO of Tryon Construction, was out there alone, on a bulldozer, digging into a hill. He obviously had already done a lot: the beautiful grassy slope that I remembered from the groundbreaking ceremony a couple of weeks before had a huge gouge in it. "Ah, well, creative destruction," I said to myself as I circled around to walk toward the bulldozer safely. When I was about twenty feet from the 'dozer, Mr. Tryon saw me and stopped work.



Glynis Oliver

Gould Farm barns with new chicken house behind silo. Little Dig site is to left.

People who read the *Monterey News* probably know some of what I'm going to report here, because Leigh Tryon is well known in these parts. (I had learned shortly before, to my surprise, that his father, who ran the business before him, is the Monterey fire chief.). Leigh is a middle-sized, fortyish-looking man with a toothy grin. He radiates a quiet self-confidence which, according to Farm staffers, his work fully justifies. During the interview, I learned that he was taking no money for all his work: "I'm volunteering all our efforts here. I told Brian [Snyder, Gould Farm's executive director] this is strictly free, no charge."

I asked, "How long have you been in the excavation business?"

He smiled. "Our family has been in it fifty years." Leigh's grandfather owned a trucking company, and often hauled away dirt from construction sites. Gradually this dirt remover became a dirt digger.

I asked Leigh what differences there were between the excavation game in the 1930s, when his grandfather was hauling dirt away, and today.

He considered for a moment, then offered, "The equipment's much more expensive."

"Any other changes?" I asked.

"Yes: people want things done sooner."

"How many bulldozers do you own? And what other heavy equipment do you own?"

"Two bulldozers," said he, "and fifteen, sixteen pieces of equipment total."

I next asked a question that only a newcomer would need to ask: "How long has the Tryon family been here in the Monterey area?"

He paused, as if casting his mind back over decades—centuries—of Tryons.

"A long time, huh?" I said.

"Yeah, a long time."

"Revolutionary era?"

"Yeah."

I wanted to know the technical problems of excavation. (As I wrote in last month's edition of the *News*, when I was a teenager, my family built a large addition to our house with our own

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hands. However, my father did acknowledge that there were *some* limits to his prowess, and very sensibly hired a professional to dig out the basement.) "It's harder to excavate when the site's a hill, I guess?"

Mr. Tryon shook his head: "I think it's *easier* to work with a hill than a flat surface." I saw what he was getting at. He can drive the bulldozer blade completely into the hill, instead of scraping at the surface. (Think about how much easier it is to scoop ice cream out of a partly empty container than out of a new one.)

"What natural phenomena make it really hard to excavate?"

He tugged at the brim of his black cap (what we folks from down below the Mason-Dixon Line often call a "gimme cap") with the CAT logo. "I guess water is a problem." He repeated for emphasis, "Water is a problem."

"I guess you don't want to be shoveling up water when you should be shovelling dirt."

He replied instantly, "No, you're just making mud, you don't want that."

Impressed by his thoughtfulness, I said, "Obviously, when you were a young man, you had many career paths open to you. What made you take the path you took? Were there any—oh, childhood influences?"

He smiled reminiscently: "I've *always* enjoyed it."

"Yeah?"

"Umm. I worked with my father."

"What'd you do?"

"Lots of stuff. I was driving trucks on sites when I was eleven years old."

My eyes widened at that! After a pause while I wished *I* could have done that, I returned to the factors that work against an excavator. He said that one is "the kind of ground, whether it's rocky, wet, sandy."

"What's this ground?" I wondered.

"Sandy," he said, adding that this is a little unusual around here, that most of the land is rocky.

"Sure," I said to myself, "New England—rocky soil." (Even someone from south of the Mason-Dixon Line knows that much.)

Mr. Tryon warmed to his subject: "If you've got rainy or snowy weather, that can hurt you. We can get three feet of frost here, and that'll pretty much put you out of business."

After a pause, he told me, "We've done quite a lot with Gould Farm over the years ... we lease the gravel pit over here ... we put the sewer system in at the lagoons." In fact, the Tryons have been doing jobs at Gould Farm for about forty years.

I found my next question very hard to ask, mostly because of my own complicated feelings, as a Farm guest, about the subject of mental illness: "How do you *feel* about Gould Farm? I mean, after all, you've got a place with a lot of people with serious mental problems here ...," I trailed off.

He replied, very seriously, "I don't have any problem with that. No. I think it's a very good program."

"Do you think there's something good for the psyche in living in the country?"

"Yes," he said, "I think living in a place that's slower paced helps people to relax."

Since he said this with such conviction, I hazarded a guess: "You've pretty much lived here in Monterey your whole life?"

"That's it. [Pause] That's it."

Half-seriously, I asked, "Any temptation to taste the fruits of the big city?"

"No. No."

I hopped to a new topic: "How many hours a week would you say you work?"

He scratched his cheek. "Sixty hours a week, probably." (Too bad for him, I thought, that he's the boss and can't get time and a half for overtime!)

How many employees does the firm have? How many of his earthmoving machines were in use on any given day?

"I usually keep four to six employees. There's probably about four or five pieces going every day." He quickly added that the last figure did not include the winter months. He has to get all his work in during the months when we don't have feet of frost in the ground.

After about half an hour of a very enjoyable interview, I decided I had enough copy and should let him get back to his business. As I tramped back up Gould Road something he had said kept echoing in my mind: "The harder a job, the more of a challenge it is." It's the sort of thing a Gould Farmer might say.

Mr. Tryon finished excavating the site some days after our interview, and passed out of my life. Much work will be done in the next few weeks. I hope to cover it all.

— "William," a guest at Gould Farm

If you wish to learn more about Gould Farm, please visit our website at www.gouldfarm.org. *Tryon Construction is on Main Road in Monterey (528-4900).*

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The Bidwell House Museum

It is with regret that I announce my resignation as Director of The Bidwell House, effective June 13, as I have been appointed Director of the Horatio Colony House Museum in Keene, New Hampshire.

Having served as Director for five years, I have been honored to see the museum develop, and I thank everyone of you who contributed your time, financial support, in-kind donations, great ideas, and neighborly good will. It is through your generosity that the museum has grown into a community educational resource.

The Bidwell House and Monterey have greatly touched the lives of my husband, Tom, and I, so it was a very difficult decision to make. However, we plan to visit often, and I hope you will visit me at my new museum.

Lisa Simpson, past Bidwell House Director, will be serving as Interim Director for the summer to give tours and implement the 250th Anniversary Celebration schedule of events.

For the month of June the 250th Anniversary Celebration has two programs scheduled.

On Saturday, June 3, The Bidwell House Meeting House Trail will be dedicated as part of the White House Millennium Community Trails Designation, a joint project between the White House Millennium Council and the US Department of Transportation. The designation is to recognize and pay tribute to certain trails that give unique contributions to local culture and lore.

The event is geared for families and will include a guided hike of the trail focusing on the natural history of the area. Gould Farm naturalist Bob Rausch will lead the hike. In addition, Peter Jensen of OpenSpace Management will give a presentation about the trail installation and forest management of The Bidwell House property.

Glynis Oliver

This is not skunk cabbage.

Please wear clothing appropriate for walking in the woods; long-sleeved shirts and long pants are advised, as well as hats. The hike will begin at 1:00 p.m. at the front porch of the museum. Admission is free to all.

On Saturday, June 10, from 5:30–7:30 p.m., The Bidwell House will host a "Mad Hatter" fund-raiser featuring the preview of the Nineteenth- & Twentieth Century Hat Exhibit. The exhibit will include nineteenth-century hats from the Berkshire County Historical Society collection, as well as hats designed in the 1950s by the late Jack Hargis, who designed for the Paris fashion houses of Christian Dior and Jacques Fath. Mr. Hargis restored and founded The Bidwell House. The fund-raiser will include cocktails and conversation, and participants are encouraged to sport their finest hats. Reservations are advised; admission is $30 per person.

The hat exhibit will run until Sunday, July 10, and will be offered as part of the regular house tour.

The Bidwell House is open for tours Tuesday through Sunday, from 11:00 to 4:00. Admission is $5 for adults, $4 for seniors and students, and $1 for children under 12. The museum is located at 100 Art School Road in Monterey. For information and reservations please call 413 528-6888.

— Anita Carroll-Weldon

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MaryKate Jordan

Monterey Land Trust News

The Annual Meeting of the Monterey Land Trust will be held at "The Barway" on Mt. Hunger on July 22, 2000. The business meeting to elect the Board of Directors and other business will begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by a hike, or hikes, on our various trails, old and new. We hope that many of you will come, especially those of you who helped to save this wonderful property.

The slate of directors is as follows: Mary Brock, Fred Chapman, Andrea Dunlop, Suzanne Hoppenstedt, Jon Sylbert, Georgiana O'Connell, Storrs Olds, Kathryn Roberts, Joyce Scheffey, and Roger Tryon. Officers to the Board will be elected by the Board at a future meeting.

For further information and directions to the "The Barway" please call Suzanne Hoppenstedt at 528-1786.

Tolland State Forest Concert

On Saturday, June 17, Tolland State Forest will host a free concert. People of all ages can come on out to stomp their feet and listen to The Crashers' beat. Playing their unique instruments, the mandolin and the mando-cello, the group will perform their special blend of original and contemporary folk music with an Irish twist. The music will start at 1:00 p.m. beside the beach parking lot and continue until 2:30 p.m.

Directions: From the center of Monterey take Route 23 East to the intersection of Route 8 in Otis. From Otis Center continue East on Route 23 to West Shore Road (3.1 miles) and turn right. Proceed for .8 miles to Tolland Road and turn left. On Tolland Road go over the Otis Reservoir Dam and take the main road up the hill into the park entrance on the left (2.9 miles).

Lake Garfield Association Eco Tip for June

Clean propellers and hull before launching your boat, Exotic plants and microbes could intrude on your float.

Monterey Kindergarten

The Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee recently approved a pilot initiative for the Monterey Kindergarten program for the 2000-2001 term. The early kindergarten program will be open on a space available basis to youngsters who will turn five years of age between September 1, 2000, and August 31, 2001. The number of slots open for early kindergarten youngsters is limited, and the initiative is only being offered at the Monterey School. For more information, parents are asked to call the office of Elementary Principal John Peron at 413 229-8754.

Church News

What does it mean to be a church? What do we need as a faith community? What do we need as individuals? These are questions we are trying to answer for ourselves at the Monterey United Church of Christ this year, as we look for a new identity and a new pastor. Reverend Howard Smith is stepping in as summer pastor, and we are in the process of engaging an interim pastor for September.

The celebration and farewell for Keith Snow has been postponed until July, due to the renovation of the community room in the church basement. Stay tuned!

— Heidi Haverkamp

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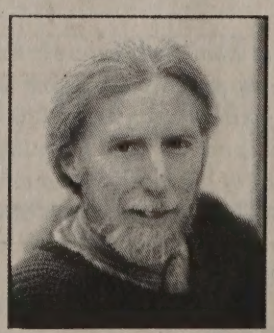

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Composting Bins Available

We still have a few composting bins (around 10).

Why compost? Composting offers numerous benefits. It reduces town costs by diverting perfectly good compostable materials from filling up the landfill. Every trip to a land fill costs money, and there are tipping fees on top of that.

It is estimated that 30 percent of the household waste stream is food and yard waste. Composting diverts this potentially valuable "black gold" from the waste stream back to enrich where it came from. Also, organic materials turn nasty when dumped in a landfill. They can create explosive methane gas and acids which react with other nasty landfill goodies to create a toxic leachate that is a ground water contaminate. Not good stuff, that.

As for the whole business of composting itself, it's just plain fun. It's the world's easiest way to dispose of waste while building up your soils at the same time. It's a great feeling to watch your vegetables and yard wastes turn into black gold.

Our adjustable bins are called the New Age Composter; you can make the bin smaller or larger—up to 24 square feet. They are made of 100% recycled plastic from Massachusetts plastic recycling programs. They have unique top and bottom cones which virtually eliminate the need for turning. The bottom cone brings up air, and the top cone holds in moisture. Metal stakes, which are included, secure it to the ground. They are rodent resistant, have a lifetime warranty, and are durable and UV resistant. The cost to you (thanks to our grant) is $25. Interested?

And, while I'm at it, I would love to hear from the many of you who have been using them over the years. Have you found them useful? Are they performing as you had hoped? Any secrets of composting to share? Let me know—528-0550.

— Joyce Scheffey

Glynis Oliver

The view through the editors' window: Hillside on River Road still shows scars of Memorial Day 1995 tornado.

Beartown State Forest Family Fun Day

On Sunday, June 18, the Department of Environmental Management will host a free day of family fun at Beartown State Forest. People of all ages are welcome to come on down at 9:00 a.m. and enjoy a 1.5 mile hike around Benedict Pond, led by naturalist Jeanne Schnackenberg. From 11 a.m. through 4 p.m. the Appalachian Mountain Gear Co. from Great Barrington will provide free use of their canoes and kayaks. For your listening pleasure, The Crashers will provide a special musical performance that will make you stomp your feet while you listen to their beat. They will play their unique instruments, the mandolin and mandocello starting at 1:00 p.m. and continuing until 2:30 p.m. at the beach area. This hour-and-a-half, electrified act will be a combination of original and contemporary folk music with an Irish twist.

Directions: From the center of Monterey, head east on Route 23 for 2.5 miles. Turn right on Blue Hill Road. The Beartown State Forest entrance is 2 miles from Route 23 on the right.

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Eagle Fund Announces Grants

Twelve educational initiatives to benefit the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) have received a total of $6,670 in grants from the Eagle Fund, a fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. The Eagle Fund was established in 1998 by parents, teachers, and local residents as a permanent endowment to support cutting-edge educational programs at SBRSD that are not funded through the regular school budget. The Fund continues to seek contributions to enhance its grantmaking effectiveness.

SBRSD Art Department (Peggy Reeves) was awarded $300 for the purchase of frames to display student artwork throughout the school on a rotating basis.

Flying Cloud Institute was awarded $1,500 for three separate programs in the school district. Five hundred dollars will be used to support Flying Cloud's afterschool arts and sciences programs; $500 will help support the stipend for the science advisor and dance residency administrator, Jane Burke; and $500 will help pay for two students' independent art study program.

Undermountain Elementary Fifth Grade (Peggy Muskrat) was awarded $425 for a "Classroom of the Waves" field trip to Hudson River Clearwater in Poughkeepsie, NY. The class will perform scientific experiments, learn basic seamanship, and learn to read navigational charts on the three-hour sail on the Hudson River.

SBRSD eighth-grade French 1 class (Kathleen VanOrman) was awarded $1,350 to help defray the costs of their trip to Québec, Canada this spring to practice speaking French.

South Egremont School (kindergarten and first grade) was awarded $500 to support the continuation of the Leap and Learn programs.

Undermountain Elementary School (Richard Pavoni) was awarded $500 toward the purchase of audio/video equipment to enhance the health, physical education, and family and consumer sciences courses.

SBRSD Library Department was awarded $895 to purchase an electronic inventory machine. Currently the district's libraries are forced to close for a week each June to take inventory of all material. The new scanning machine will speed up the process, will create subject bibliographies, and will efficiently allow for remote circulation of material to classrooms.

SBRSD Fourth Grade (Anson Olds) was awarded $500 for a team building project for all fourth graders, culminating in a class trip to Becket Chimney Corners YMCA Center. This project was launched to help these children through the transition from the small elementary school buildings to the larger, regional building the fifth graders attend.

The Middle School Alternative Program (Jennifer Miller) was awarded $200 to purchase a ladder and safety signs for the high ropes course built last year at the high school.

SBRSD Drama Department (Robert Law) was awarded $500 to support the drama productions produced by the department in 1999–2000 school year.

For more information on the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation call (800)969-2823, or E-mail at btcf@bcn.net.

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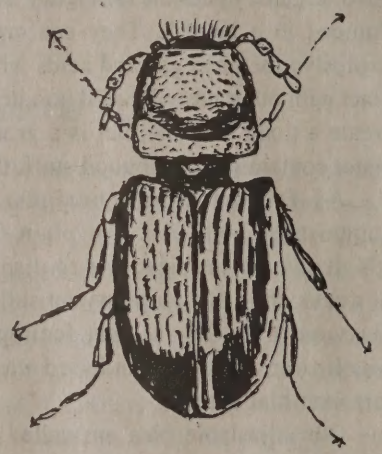

Monterey Nature Hikes

Bonner McAllester's hikes exploring nature in Monterey will be held in August this year instead of in July as in previous years. Details will be given in the July *Monterey News.*

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CET Textiles Collection a Success

Over 55,000 pounds of textiles were collected during the Fifth Annual Earth Day Clothing and Textile Drive coordinated by the Center for Ecological Technology, (CET) in partnership with the Goodwill Industries of the Berkshires. This year's collection surpassed last year's drive by over 20,000 lbs!

"Berkshire County residents really responded to this effort," stated Kristi Hanssen, an AmeriCorps VISTA member working with CET. "We've discovered that the drive meets a community need, and our partnership with Goodwill ensured that a large portion of the materials collected stayed right here in Berkshire County. Textiles, including clothing, shoes, bedding, and drapes, represent an estimated 5 percent of the waste stream that can be readily diverted from disposal through reuse and recycling."

CET coordinated this years textile drive with assistance from the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District and the Tri-Town Health Department (Lee, Lenox, and Stockbridge). CET's partnership with Goodwill Industries of the Berkshires was an innovative approach to keeping materials in Berkshire County.

"Our partnership with CET has proven to be extremely successful. We were delighted with the quantity and quality of the materials collected," said Tom Speckert, Executive Director of Goodwill. "CET arranged for collection sites around the county, and we coordinated the pick-ups. All materials collected are used for employment and training opportunities for individuals with disabilities. We were amazed at the response and look forward to working with CET again next year."

CET would like to thank First Massachusetts Bank, Berkshire Bank, and Lee Bank Pittsfield Loan Office for advertising support. The Rotary Club of Pittsfield and Basil A. Petricca also made generous contributions to support coordination and outreach activities. Other supporters include: United Church of Christ in Monterey, the New Marlborough Town Hall, Old Parish Church in Sheffield, Southern Berkshire YMCA, UnCommon Ground, Mama's Earth of Great Barrington, Crispina Designs in Housatonic, for being drop-off sites, and the Lanesborough Boy Scouts Troop and BCC students for volunteering time to help!

CET is a non-profit community organization active in the fields of energy and resource conservation and solid waste management with offices in Pittsfield and Northampton, and is funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Glynis Oliver

A false hellebore by a river's brim ... (at the confluence of Rawson Brook and the Konkapot, Diane's Trail).

*

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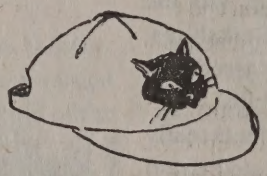
Rep Rap

As I write this column I am taking part in the rules debate for today's session of the House of Representatives at the State House. Yet not far from the House chamber my colleagues and I can hear the sounds of protest coming from the Boston Common. The voices are protesting about the negative impact of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System on the Commonwealth's students, teachers, schools, and parents.

The MCAS, as it is commonly referred to, is a series of standardized tests administered to fourth, eighth, and tenth graders to determine if a satisfactory level of competency is being achieved by Massachusetts students in standard subjects. Tenth grade students must pass the MCAS tests in order to graduate. The MCAS was born out of the 1993 Education Reform Act, which revolutionized the delivery and funding of public education in Massachusetts so each child could be afforded the same access to a sound education regardless of the wealth of the school district. The heart of the Ed Reform Act fosters the pursuit of equity and educational excellence. The MCAS was supposed to serve as a yardstick from which to measure achievement of the educational goals at certain grade levels and then, based on those scores, to devise ways to create a level of accountability for our schools and to help underperforming students learn and grow. Unfortunately this standardized test is no more than an arbitrary ranking system of schools that teach for the mastery of the test, with little assistance to schools or students that are underperforming.

When the state's public school students and schools did not rack up high scores during the first two years the tests have been administered, everyone was quick to play the blame game. This game is rooted in politics, not education. The members of the Board of Education who make the decisions regarding testing are distanced from the process and consequences of their actions. The Governor pointed his finger at the state's teachers, charging them with levels of incompetence. The fact remains that teachers have reorganized their curriculums to instruct students with skills and facts they need to know to pass the test. Rote memorization and standardized testing as a gateway to graduation underscore the misuse of the test. This narrow approach to accountability will only frustrate students and teachers alike. Is this the type of education we envisioned for our children?



Several students in our Berkshire County schools have mobilized grassroots efforts to stop the MCAS from becoming a graduation requirement and to de-emphasize the role that the test plays in the curriculum. Students have boycotted the tests, but they have not simply staged a walkout. As they left MCAS testing rooms, they have used their time wisely to complete student portfolios that accurately reflect their grasp of subject material and have written letters explaining why the MCAS is not a proper sole means of assessment. The MCAS should be part of a broader assessment system, in which standardized tests are just one part of the means by which to evaluate students and schools. We do need some sort of standardized tests to see what is working and what needs improvement in our public schools. With that in mind then, we need to take positive steps to make changes that help underperforming students and schools. Change does not come overnight and only through activism can we "change the system." I remain committed to insuring that a quality public education is available to all our students and that schools are held accountable for the education they deliver. Yet, this is not a zero sum game, where there can be winners and losers. We need to make sure every child has the chance to win.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at my full-time district office, 413 243-0289.

— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins

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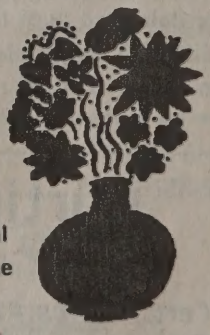

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Senator Says

Statewide Road and Bridge Projects: On May 16, 2000, the Senate passed legislation to fund the cost overruns in the Big Dig. The bill also provided $400 million to be spent annually for the statewide road and bridge program, and limits what kinds of expenditures may be incurred by the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction (EOTC) in reaching that annual $400 minimum.

The bill requires MassHighway to "develop and implement a comprehensive plan to ensure the statewide road and bridge program drawn from the State Transportation Improvement Program is adequately funded at a minimum amount of $400,000,000 in each fiscal year, for the years 2001 to 2005, during the peak construction and cash flow period of the Central Artery/Ted Williams Tunnel Project." One fourth of the $400 million will come from a new fund created by the legislature as part of the May 16 legislation.

Language in the bill limits the portion of the $400 million that can be spent by EOTC on environmental operations, right of way acquisition, utility and force account work. It prohibits EOTC from counting expenditures on Chapter 90, the Public Works and Economic Development (PWED) grant program and the costs of administration, engineering, design or maintenance, toward the $400 million annual figure.

There is no way around the fact that the Big Dig is a financial disaster. As has been widely reported in the press, the finance plan cobbles together a number of revenue sources to cover the gap in projected costs for the Big Dig, and to provide a funding stream for the statewide road and bridge program. While I would have preferred to see more of the Senate plan, which avoided reinstatement of driver's license fees, reflected in the final legislation, this plan is a responsible one that meets our Big Dig obligations while providing for other infrastructure needs throughout the state.

Mental Health Parity: In April, the Senate approved a bill that will provide equal treatment by insurance companies and medical service providers for people suffering from mental health disorders. Besides the obvious benefit to individuals and families coping with mental health issues, this law is important because it recognizes a basic truth about the nature of mental illness. There should be no stigma for people suffering from mental health disorders. Signed into law by the Governor, the bill provides equal treatment for these illnesses when compared to the resources available for treating physical illnesses.

When it goes into effect on January 1, 2001, the new law will require that health insurance policies provide mental health benefits for individuals with certain biologically based disorders on a non-discriminatory basis compared to other medical benefits. Policies offered by commercial insurers, HMOs, the state's Group Insurance Commission, nonprofit hospital service corporations (such as Blue Cross), and medical service corporations (such as Blue Shield) will all be affected by the new law. For small group and non-group health insurance plans, the legislation becomes effective on January 1, 2002.

Many policies have included coverage of mental health disorders in the past. Generally, mental health disorders—even though they are often symptoms of biological problems—have not been eligible for the kind of insurance coverage given for other medical problems. Less insurance coverage can mean inadequate treatment or care. The following provisions are among the requirements in the new law:

- Coverage of schizophrenia, major depressive disorder, delirium and dementia, and other biologically based mental disorders appearing in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association (the "DSM").
- Coverage for children with a mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder described in the DSM that substantially interferes with or limits a child's functioning and social interaction, if such interference or limitation has been documented or evidenced by certain conduct.
- Coverage of mental health benefits for rape victims.
- Lifting of limits on coverage for treatment of alcoholism and substance abuse when the treatment is in conjunction with treatment for mental disorders.
- Requiring that standards for consent to disclosure of information be the same as, or similar to, those used for other medical conditions.

Mental health advocates and social service providers in western Massachusetts, including the Alliance for the Mentally Ill (AMI), have worked hard to bring this long-awaited legislation to a vote, and many local families and individuals will benefit enormously from the provisions in the law.

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

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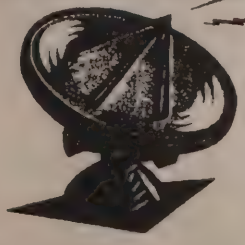
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New Moon

New moons always startle me.

A cut in the blackness,
allowing illumination.

A tap on my shoulder
by instinct,

raising my eyes.

— Peter Shepley

White Black Flower

Sweet petals
of black hair
surround a perfect
face of sadness,

heroin pale.

— Peter Shepley

Layman

Knowing no better,
the layman slept.

— Peter Shepley

Pour Me the Dregs

pour me the dregs of reality
through the smokey din of dreamtime
writhing in the rhythmic thrust
from silent seed to sudden bloom
investigating the latest
variety of growth and decay
before it all gets sampled in
plastic, sanitized and soulless
i need a sip of the sacred
to open the back door to courage
conversation and vocation
let the night sky rap over this groove
there are songs to sing of the mindless
multi media addictions
dumbed and strung out on consumption
frivolities of the senses
there are songs to sing of the green leaf
reaching up above the granite beds
high into the circling sparrows
feeding the dreams and hand of man
there are poems burning in anguish
the massacre of the innocents
over the endless tongue of greed
into the twisted hands of power
there are poems burning in pure love
with fevers of wild azalea:
the cacophony of winged song
your eyes like clover, my bee hum
oh sip me slowly, pour me some more
mindful of the rose, while spring comes
red as roses, life so liquid
first butterfly: great news of This!
a bass lays down a soulful mantra
percussion, organ, horns chant on
wind sings, pine dances with sky blues
"it is enough, it is enough"

for Micro
— R. Zukowski

From The Fish Hatchery Porch

What lay boarded and silent
now sings awake
the recollection of decades
pads again on the lawns.

Magnolias crack open in scent
and lick the wind in playful petals,
the off-cast shadows of trout
swirl on the ripple of iridescent fins.

When Frances H. Burnett
wove the tale of the Secret Garden,
she spoke of a stone wall, locked in tangled vine
that hid the beauty
eager for a trowel and patient palm.

Here, the story unravels again
dormant daffodils uncurl their yellow faces
a child skips through tickling grass with laughter
and the moss purrs in velveteen blankets.

From the pine swept porch
a fervor is heeded
churning in the pools—
and the deer stop to ponder
the freshly furrowed ground.

— M. Hamilton

Rest

Today
I drifted
on the raft of my mind
across the great blue seas of peace

solitude, a holy ring
of silence and release

and one by one
thoughts fell off my fingers
lost in the deep

billowing wisdom
of sapphire and refocillating sleep.

— A. O. Howell

Postcard from a Brief Vacation

Not what I expected.
Cold wind. Curtains of rain
reel down the reservoir,
drum hard on this tin roof
while I sit, while I watch
liquid silver hope of
abundant fall harvest
hide the sun this morning.

— MaryKate Jordan

True Story from Friends Meetinghouse Swamp

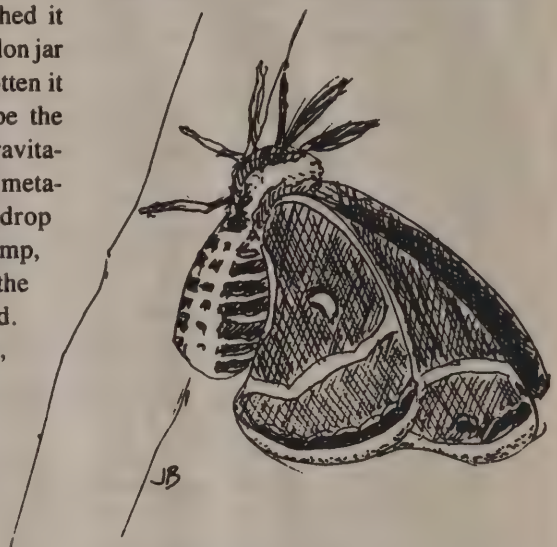
I took about a dozen close-up photos—I was sure I'd get at least one good one of this most marvelous creature. Once I got her outside, I thought she would spread her six-inch wings and disappear from my life, so I photographed her through the glass of her dry aquarium. Finally, slowly, not daring to breathe, I unclipped the wire lid. She felt the sun and breeze on her and she shook a little.

This is the first cecropia moth we ever hatched out in the kitchen. We'd seen the caterpillars before—thick blue-green royals, their bodies studded with gems on little pedestals. One time in our driveway one fell onto our truck with a "clong" as if someone had dropped a small banana on the hood.

Cecropias are the biggest North American moths. They have one generation per year, and you might find a large tan papery cocoon in the spring, attached securely to a twig or sapling where it has spent the winter: safe, tough, camouflaged. In May or early June, when the weather warms up, the dark brown pupa inside undergoes a total transformation, nibbles through the miracle fabric of its winter safe house, and squeezes out—a limp young moth, quivering with possibilities and extremely vulnerable.

Our cocoon came from an alder swamp at the Friends Meetinghouse in Great Barrington. I'd skinned it off the alder, brought it home, and stitched it onto a short stick. We put it in a gallon jar and then had to wonder if we'd gotten it right way up, also what might be the consequences of a 180-degree gravitational alteration during its coming metamorphosis. The cocoon is teardrop shaped, so I went back to the swamp, found the natal alder, and saw that the removal site was point upward. Zooming home, I flipped the stick, still wondering if half a day upside down could play havoc with genetic instructions.

Days later, Cora and I were doing our Spanish about twelve inches from the cecropia jar. Unnoticed by us (such focussed *alumnas de español* are we), the new moth emerged. We saw her maybe half an hour later. She hung as limp as a nylon stocking just washed and pinned up to dry. As the day went on, she grew. Her abdomen swelled, its handsome stripes getting bolder as if we were zooming in on her with a telephoto lens. In fact, she was zooming in on us, and on her adult life. Her wings developed structure, rigid ribs. They began to look strong enough to carry that big body through the air. By the next day we had showed her off to friends and neighbors. The jar seemed too small—she was so big now a gallon cramped her. Still she never moved up or down the stick, never fluttered at the glass. I decided it was time to for her to fulfill her destiny, in her own home swamp.



I crept around her with the camera, put on the macro lens, got her lovely fernlike antennae against blue forget-me-nots. I dared to take her stick out of the aquarium, and still she did not fly. More photos. In the end I was the one who had to leave her, whose life called me out into the world. I thought I'd never see her again, but when I went back two hours later she was still there—and not alone! She had been joined by a slightly smaller, paler version of herself, and they were joined at the tips of

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paler version of herself, and they were joined at the tips of their abdomens, as they sat side by side on the stick, heads upward, just above the empty cocoon. Now I understood that our moth had been saving her strength. Why use up energy toting that big abdomen full of unfertilized eggs around the swamp? Instead she had been sending out streams of invisible molecules, pheromones, come-hithers. Fortunately she had not spent them all in our useless kitchen. Maybe somehow she'd known to save them, to wait for direct sun and breezes.

That afternoon, through a wild thunderstorm, the two cecropias stayed joined, side by side. After the rain, in the late evening, they both departed. She will be looking for the perfect egg-laying places, and he perhaps will be answering other pheromone summonses. Their eggs will hatch, tiny green caterpillars munching their way through summer and finally spinning Tyvek-quality cocoons where they will snooze through next winter as pupae.

I'll be on the lookout in the spring. And this time I will watch closely to see the new, liquid-limp moth squeeze out into the first air of its adult life. (I will also make sure, this time, that there really is film in my camera.)

— Bonner J. McAllester

Glynis Oliver

Book Reviews by a Young Reader

Beautiful My Mane in the Wind, by Catherine Petroski, with paintings by Robert Andrew Parker

This book is good for people who are beginning to read or for a bedtime story. It is about a girl who thinks that she is a horse, maybe even the last mustang. If you want to find out more about this girl, well, you'll just have to read the book.

Gypsy Rizka, by Lloyd Alexander

Do you like adventure? Then this is the perfect book for you. The gypsy girl Rizka, left behind by the other gypsies, now lives outside of town in her wagon with her cat. Rizka is very rambunctious, and her active imagination gets her into a lot of trouble. She is also the leader of the town's ragamuffins. If you want to find out more about what Rizka and the ragamuffins do, then check this out from the Monterey Library.

— Dinah Mielke

Dinah is just finishing the fifth grade at Undermountain Elementary School. The News *encourages other young readers to submit book reviews or articles on subjects that interest them*

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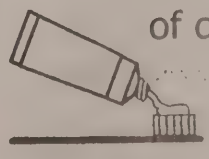

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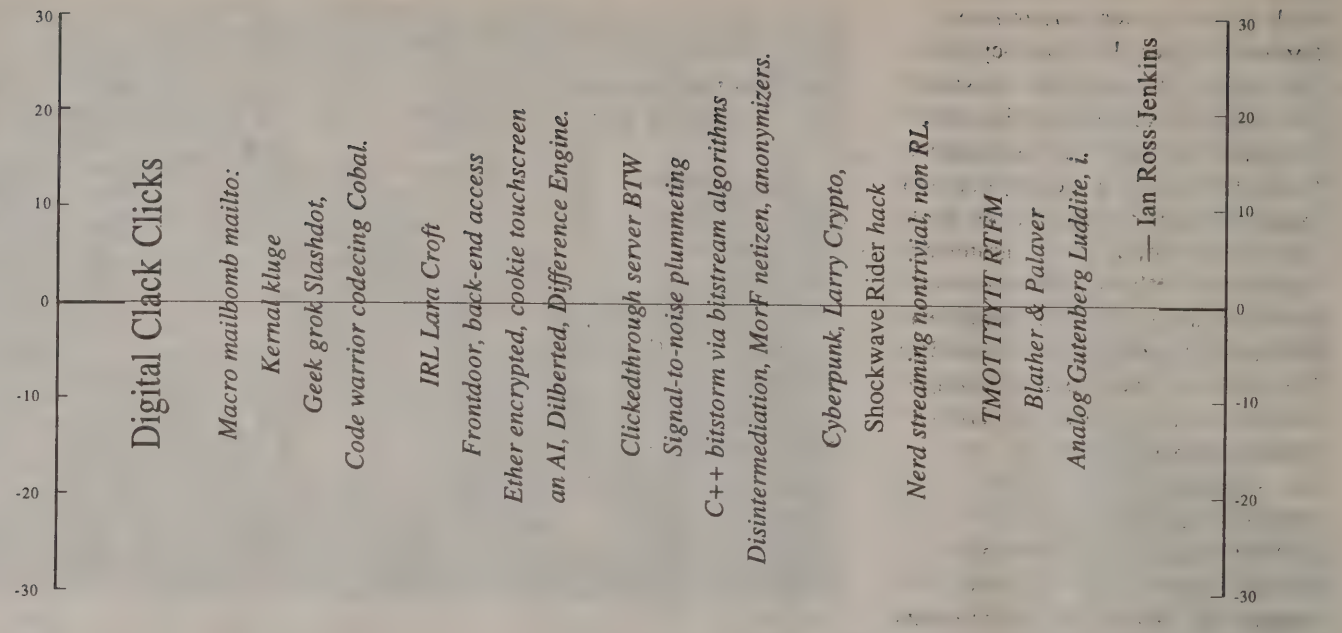

Terms and Acronyms Used in Poem

Macro: a single computer instruction that stands for a sequence of operations.
Mailbomb: a sustained avalanche of E-mails sent to one or more sites to overwhelm the receiving node.
Mailto: with the colon is an HTML tag for E-mail address. HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) is used to create pages for World Wide Web sites. Hypertext can be linked in multiple ways, be available at several levels of detail, and contain links to other sites.
Kernal: nucleus of an operating system.
Kluge: an inelegant solution; rhymes with "stooge."
Geek: Someone who codes for fun, speaks Unix among friends, and reads Slashdot daily.
Grok: a verb meaning to scan all available information regarding a situation, digest it, and form a distilled opinion. Coined by Robert A. Heinlein in his 1961 science fiction novel *Stranger in a Strange Land,* which became a counterculture classicin the sixties ("Far out, man! I grok.")
Slashdot: an online coding site.
Code Warrior: a programmer who writes computer code.
Codec: a programming term for code that is compressed (zipped) for faster transmission and then decompressed (unzipped) for use.
Cobal: an early and important high-level computer programmimg language.
IRL: "in real life."
Lara Croft: the Sharon Stone of video gaming. Well endowed and heavily armed, she is the hero of *Tomb Raider* and a cult figure.
Frontdoor: the main title page or front page of a web site.
Back-end: the software behind the web site that controls its operation.
Access: the ability to log on, or plug in to the internet or network.
Ether: metaphor for online environment.
Encrypted: coded in some way to make confidential or secret.
Cookie: a unique identifier sent to your computer by a web server and stored on your hard disk; like a dry-cleaning ticket, it identifies your computer.
Touchscreen: the piece of technology that permits the user to perform a function by simply touching the screen, e.g., in a Palm Pilot or ATM machine.
AI: "artificial intelligence."
Dilberted: refers to the comic strip character who is always beaten down or exploited by his boss.
Difference Engine: designed by Charles Babbage in the 1820s, it was the first successful automatic calculator and symbolically/poetically the first primitive computer.
Clickedthrough: the act of a potential customer clicking on a Web banner ad to reach the marketer's site.
Server: the main controlling/storage computers on a web or internet.
BTW: "by the way."
Signal-to-noise: ratio of the amount of valuable information "signal" to the amount of interference "noise" coming through. When the valuable material is decreasing relative to the irrelevant, the ratio is "plummeting."
C++: high-level computer language that utilizes classes of objects in a coded virtual reality of object-oriented programming.
Bitstorm: a network problem misdirecting packets of data at top speed.
Bitstream: flow of data over a network connection; the transmission of bits.
Algorithms: a method or system to solve a problem.
Disintermediation: dropping or bypassing intermediaries, such as middlemen, brokers, etc.
MorF: "male or female."
Netizen: net citizens, net users.
Anonymizers: web sites that "launder" E-mail by removing the cookie codes to make the source anonymous and then mail the E-mail to an address. Often these web sites are in countries with no legal controls.
Cyberpunk: a postmodern pulp science fiction genre in which high tech goes lowlife and technology invades mind and body, redefining time and space.
Larry: common Anglo-Saxon first name, frequently a short version of Lawrence.

Crypto: short for "cryptography," the study of secret codes and puzzles.
Shockwave Rider: 1975 proto-cyberpunk classic by John Brunner, which pits a rebel computer programmer against Big Brother government, and inspired many hackers.
Hack: to work on a project, but commonly used for playing pranks on the net or with computer programs/networks, frequently in a destructive way.
Nerd: common usage for technology freak.
Streaming: live display of real-time data. The technology permits the viewing of partial live data before all of it arrives.
Nontrivial: very important.
RL: "real life."
TMOT: "trust me on this."
TTYTT: "to tell you the truth."
RTFM: "read the —— manual."
Blather & Palaver: see a dictionary for standard definitions.
Analog: non-digital, the old electronic method of transmitting data by varying the physical characteristics of the transmitting current, etc. Now a put-down for old style; e.g: "She is analog, she still uses filofax."
Gutenberg: perjorative term to describe someone who prints out a hard copy of text instead of reading it off the screen.
Luddite: a perjorative term on the web for someone who "opposes technology." The original Luddites were a band of early eighteenth-century English workmen who smashed labor-saving machinery in the early stages of the Industrial Revolution to protest the loss of jobs.
I: a common first person singular pronoun in English.

Adapted from *Wired Style: Principles of English Usage in the Digital Age,* Revised Edition, by Constance Hale & Jessie Scanlon, Broadway Books, 1999.

— Ian Ross Jenkins

Have Needle; Will (Time) Travel

The Enochs' Amish Wedding Quilt

MaryKate Jordan

Stephen and Mari Enoch will celebrate their first wedding anniversary on the twelfth of this month. Almost a year earlier, though, they'd made themselves another promise.

When they had found themselves in a shop full of Amish things, they kept going back to the quilts. "We'll save our money and buy one someday," they had agreed.

They never told anybody else about it, but the events which brought them their dream quilt were already underway. Gould Farm, where Stephen and Mari make their home, lost their sheep barn during the 1995 Memorial Day tornado. That summer, Jacob and Sally Flaud of Newburgh, Pennsylvania, gathered at the Farm with many others from various Amish families for a barn raising.

Each year since then, Brian and Paula Snyder and their children spend time with their Amish friends. That's how Amy Goldfarb knew that, on Mother's Day weekend, the Newburgh Amish family has a huge auction to benefit their school. The auction is held in Jacob Flaud's barn.

When it occurred to Amy that an Amish quilt would make a wonderful gift for Mari and Stephen, it quickly became a communal idea. So in May 1999 the Snyders and the Goldfarbs went to Newburgh on a quest.

"Each quilt is folded until the bidding on it actually starts," Amy explained. "It was nerve-wracking to make decisions so fast, especially on behalf of other people. When we saw this quilt opened up, though, we knew it was the one."

Created by Linda Byler and her daughters, members of the Newburgh family, the quilt top repeats two traditional American pattern blocks, Log Cabin and one Linda called Miniature Star. It contrasts rich blue and purple against the pale neutral of natural muslin. The corners of the star blocks are quilted with hearts. When a woman who had bid against them later offered Amy $50 over the purchase price for the quilt, she just laughed. "No way," was all she said.

At the wedding reception, Amy mentioned to Stephen, in an offhanded way, that she had left their wedding gift in the couple's new home. When they got home later, Mari and Stephen found the quilt on their bed, along with a gift card containing seventeen lines of signatures.

"We were overwhelmed. Our wedding day was already so full of emotion and loveliness. We couldn't have been more surprised to have this gift on top of it," Mari said. "And blue and purple are my favorite colors."

"We love it," Stephen added. Their Amish wedding quilt, which began as an act of faith, found just the right convergence of time, place, motive, and opportunity, to blossom.

— MaryKate Jordan

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Planetary Partridge

The indigenous bird that we call partridge is classified as a ruffed grouse, a gallinaceous game bird of the species *bonasa umbellus.* If Charles Robert Darwin (1809–1882) had lived in the Berkshires instead of England, he might have prized the partridge as a prime example for his theory of the evolution of species.

The spring weather is especially critical to partridge populations. After an incubation period of about three weeks, with some fourteen to twenty eggs in a nest, the newly hatched chicks are very vulnerable to cold wet conditions. Peaks in partridge population seem to correlate to heightened activity of sun spots. The effects of gaseous explosions on the solar surface filter down to Earth and may contribute to drought conditions. After a few years of dry warm springs, the partridge population seem to gradually rise, peaking every ten years or so, then falls back again, all other factors being equal.

Now, as the Sun nears its zenith, the stronger rays of light appear to energize the male partridge to increased activity, manifested in the remarkable drumming with his wings. He is not alone in this territorial ritual, for his actions are similar to those of a barnyard rooster, which follows its crows at dawn by a furtive beat of wings. A cock pheasant cackles similarly, while fanning the air with a louder feathery tattoo, frequently taking to the podium of a log, a stump, or a stone wall to thunder his drum song and try to impress a hen nesting nearby.

The planet Earth itself adapts the bird to match its own image. Within the partridge species there are two entirely distinct color variations of tail feathers. In the southern Appalachian Mountains, the tails have a red tinge, particularly where the soil composition consists of clay. Further north, the feathers are darker and gray, to blend in with the shadows of more conifers. In areas that border both conditions, some chicks in a single hatch will have red tinges and others will be gray. How this happens is a mystery to wonder about.

The mother partridge exemplifies the very best of maternal instincts. A devoted and diligent parent, she will put her life on the line at the approach

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of a predator, flopping down as if injured to draw attention away from her brood. When the surviving chicks grow into poults during the summer, they often attract lice under their feathers. The mother knows enough to knock down some poison sumac berries for them to eat. A small dose puts them under the weather for a while, but also kills any parasites. Other berries, grapes, and fruit in the autumn seem to adversely intoxicate them somewhat through fermentation. Like the rest of us, they subsequently exhibit erratic behavior, such as bumping into immovable objects. They frequently make the mistake of trying to fly through picture windows, perhaps seeing a pane of glass as an opening in the trees. Not a good place to go through—they wind up on the dining room table, drumsticks up, for supper.

As winter approached, Native Americans could foretell the severity of the winter weather to come by watching the growth of chitinous rods that extend the edges of a partridge's feet. If well developed, these serve as snowshoes, and the extent of development required to meet the anticipated need varies greatly from year to year. When the appearances, shapes, and appendages of organisms of creatures on Earth can predict meteorological developments, perhaps there is a message here that is easy to read, but written in the stars.

For a native bird that depends for its survival on a supply of natural food, protective cover, and clean water, Monterey provides a reasonably good environment. We are fortunate in having extensive property in chapter 61 (forestry), chapter 61(a) (agricultural), and 61(b) (recreational). Partridges frequent farmland hedgerows, thrive in areas of second growth, and can adapt to woodland cuttings. Perhaps the most promising recent reversal of a historical loss of habitat is the growing number of acres in the Preservation Land Trust.

As we move through the twelve stations of the zodiac in the Berkshires, the partridge is able to adapt itself accordingly. When the time comes for us once again to sing the celebrated "Twelve Days of Christmas," it will be appropriate that the first day conjures up the image of one of these birds in a pear tree. For in the waning twilight of the winter solstice, I have often seen several feeding in abandoned orchards. Dark silhouettes against a gray sky, they flutter up into bare branches to fill their crops with the buds of next year's fruit, before going to roost for the longest night.

— George Emmons

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Writing Group Forming

To the Editor:

I am attempting to organize a small writing group for those who live in the Monterey area. This gathering would provide on-going support and mutual critique for works in progress (fiction, non-fiction, short stories, poetry, etc.). The group would be a place to give our work a voice and gather feedback, and hopefully will be fun for those who love to write.

Please call me at 528-6069 after June 1 to arrange a time. Leave a message if I'm not there, and I'll be glad to call you back.

Thank you.

— Donna Trumbull

P.S. On a different subject, thank you for your recent votes for me for the Library Trustee position. I value our library so much.

*

Linda Rabiner Hebert
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Personal Notes

Birthday greetings this month to **Todd Bynack** on June 8, **Kay Pratt** on the 13th, **Nicole Andrus** on the 14th, **Michael Bynack** and **John Higgins** on the 16th, **Sandy Gottlieb** on the 18th, **Chris Blair** and **Pam Gauthier** on the 19th, **Jane Thorn** on the 23rd, **Colm Higgins** on the 28th, and **Grace Mendel** on the 30th.

Wish a Happy 1st Anniversary to **Mari and Stephen Enoch** on June 12. And on June 18, **Dean and Fran Amidon** celebrate their 55th! Also celebrating this month—**Sandy and Rita Gottlieb** on the 21st and **Dan and Betsy Andrus** on the 26th.

Monument Mountain Regional High School honor roll lists **Lauren Goldfinger,** Grade 11, with High Honors and **Mariah Rutherford-Olds,** also Grade 11, with Honors. Congratulations to both of you.

Graduation salutations to the Class of 2000. Monterey seniors **Michael Bynack, Shanna Hamm, Emily Sottile,** and **Amanda Thieriot** graduated May 27. The ceremony was held at Tanglewood, where many proud family members and friends watched the conferring of diplomas. Best wishes to you all as you begin this next phase of your lives.

Jeanne Zad writes from Vero Beach, Florida: "Hopefully we will be returning to Montery by the middle of June as I am having some surgery which holds us here in Vero Beach. Daughter **Bobbie-Jean Casserly** and family will be opening the cottage Memorial Day weekend. Daughter **Doreen Campbell** and family are all well in New Jersey. Grandson **Charles J. Campbell** joined the Army in May and is stationed for eight weeks in South Carolina, leaving for Oklahoma afterwards in training for the CIA, FBI Program. **Erin** graduates high school in June and will attend Camden Community College getting together a portfolio to go on in graphics. **Katelyn** and **Justine** actively participate in soccer. Grandson **Sean Dugan** turned thirty in May—working at Bear Stearns in New York. Husband **Bill,** recouping from second back surgery—'stamping at the bit' here impatiently wanting a return to Lake Garfield."

From the archives

1970: Fair Day !!!!! The second annual Fair Day in Monterey will be held on August 8 in Greene Park back of the Grange Hall. There will be interesting exhibits, games and contests for all. Refreshments will be available, including baked chicken and corn. The fair director is Maryellen Brown.

1980: Dean P. Amidon of Sandisfield Road is also the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Works. He received the Man-of-the-Year award for his public works accomplishments on May 20 at Boston's Pier 4 Restaurant. The award was sponsored by the American Public Works Association.

1990: Keep your eye on the Mount Everett Girls Softball Team. They presently have the best league record in the county and have already been assured post-season tournament play. Shortstop Natasha Grotz and outfielder Anne Marie Makuc are the Monterey connection to the team. Go for it, girls!

Remember to send in the news of your life to POB 211, or call 528-1871. Thank you.

— Deborah Mielke

Remembering Caroline Carnese

Caroline L. Carnese, 72, of Longboat Key, Florida, and Monterey, died May 20 in The Connecticut Hospice in Branford, Connecticut. She was a summer resident of Monterey for many years.

Born in Bronx, New York, on Sept. 11, 1927, daughter of Everett and Caroline Bott Moccia, she was a resident of Fairfield, Connecticut, until moving to Florida eight years ago. She was a graduate of Queens College.

Mrs. Carnese was a parishioner of St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church in Longboat Key and a member of the Ladies Guild. She had also been a member of the Fairfield Junior Women's Club and the Grenock Country Club Senior Women's Golf League in Lee.

She leaves her husband, Paul J. Carnese; four daughters, Kathy Brallier of East Granby, Conn., Denise Lang of Stratford, Conn., Paula Carnese of Boston, and Patricia Gazda of Wallingford, Conn.; two sons, Gregory Carnese of Old Lyme, Conn., and Christopher Carnese of Framingham; a sister, Marilyn McIndoo of East Norwich, N.Y.; and ten grandchildren.

Memorial gifts may be sent to The Connecticut Hospice, 61 Burban Drive, Branford, CT 06405.

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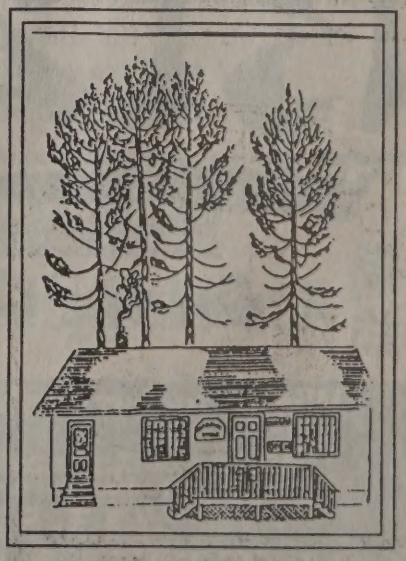


Calendar

Saturday, June 3, Millennium Trail Dedication & Family Hike, 1:00 p.m. at The Bidwell House, Art School Road, Monterey. A dedication of the Meeting House/Interpretive Trail as part of the White House Millennium Community Trails Designation. The event is geared for families and will include a guided hike of the trail focusing on the natural history of the area. Peter Jensen of OpenSpace Management will talk on the forest management of The Bidwell House property. Free admission. For information call 413 528-6888.

Saturday, June 10, Spring Fundraiser—"Mad Hatter Party" 5:30–7:30 p.m., The Bidwell House, 100 Art School Road, Monterey. Featuring the preview of the 19th & 20th Century Hat Exhibit. The fundraiser will include cocktails and conversation and participants are encouraged to sport their finest hats. Admission: $30. Reservations advised. For info and reservations call 413 528-6888.

Wednesday, June 14, Flag Day.

Saturday, June 17, *La Serva Padrona* (The Maid as Mistress), a one-act comic opera by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi, 8 p.m., Sandisfield Arts Center, Hammertown Road off Route 57 in Sandisfield. Sung in English by baritone George Preston and soprano Crystal Cattar-Bedan of New York City. Tickets are $12.50 with proceeds going to fund the restoration of the historic arts center building.

Friday, June 16, Full Moon.

Saturday, June 17, Free concert, 1:00–2:30 p.m., Tolland State Forest, Otis. The Crashers will play contemporary folk music with an Irish twist. See p. 6 for details and directions to Tolland State Forest location.

Sunday, June 18

Family Fun Day, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Beartown State Forest, Monterey. Nature hikes, music concert by The Crashers at 1:00 p.m., free use of canoes and kayaks courtesy of Appalachain Mountain Gear. See p. 7 for details and directions to Beartown State Forest location.

Don't forget today is Father's Day!

Tuesday, June 20

Free blood pressure clinic, 9:00–10:30 a.m., basement of Town Offices, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

Summer Solstice, 9:48 p.m. EDT.

Saturday, June 24

Square and contra dancing, 8:30-11:30 p.m. at the Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Christine Hale. All dances are taught; beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments at intermission. Adults $5, children $2. Information 413-528-9385.

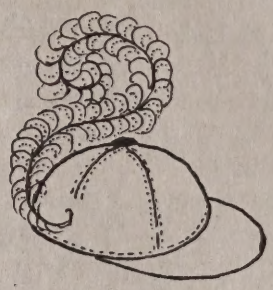
The Observer

April 26—May 25, 2000

High temp. (5/9, 5/10)	91°
Low temp. (5/1)	31°
Avg. high temp.	66.8°
Avg. low temp.	42.9°
Avg. temp.	54.9°
High wind gust (5/18)	38 mph
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	5.87"
Snowfall (all on 4/27)	2"

Precipitation occurred on 21 days.

*



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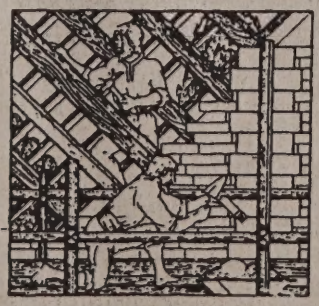

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Contributions from local artists this month: Joe Baker, p. 14; George Emmons p. 18; Bonner McAllester, p. 8; Glynis Oliver, pp. 4, 10, 13, 23.

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